

SB 109

Senate Energy & Telecomm. Comm.  
Exhibit No. 1  
Date 1/11/11  
Bill No. SB 109

**PURPOSE AND SPONSOR INTENT**

In 2005 SB 415 was passed into law by the Montana Legislature, which only included hydropower of 10 megawatts or less, to ensure that the state of Montana would encourage renewables, other than hydro---and this state most certainly has since that time.

In regards to Subsection (10) (b) (ii) of the bill, which excludes federal hydropower from the definition of eligible hydro-generation, it is not the intent of this legislation to imply that this power is not renewable. Rather, this section recognizes that Montana's electric cooperatives, which buy significant quantities of this federal power, have long-term commitments for its purchase. Because electric cooperatives are not directly under the state's RPS, it thus made sense to not include federal hydropower in my bill.

SB 109 is a policy statement, pure and simple, that says Montana, in looking toward the future believes hydropower is a clean renewable resource.

Jan. 11, 2011  
Senator Debby Barrett